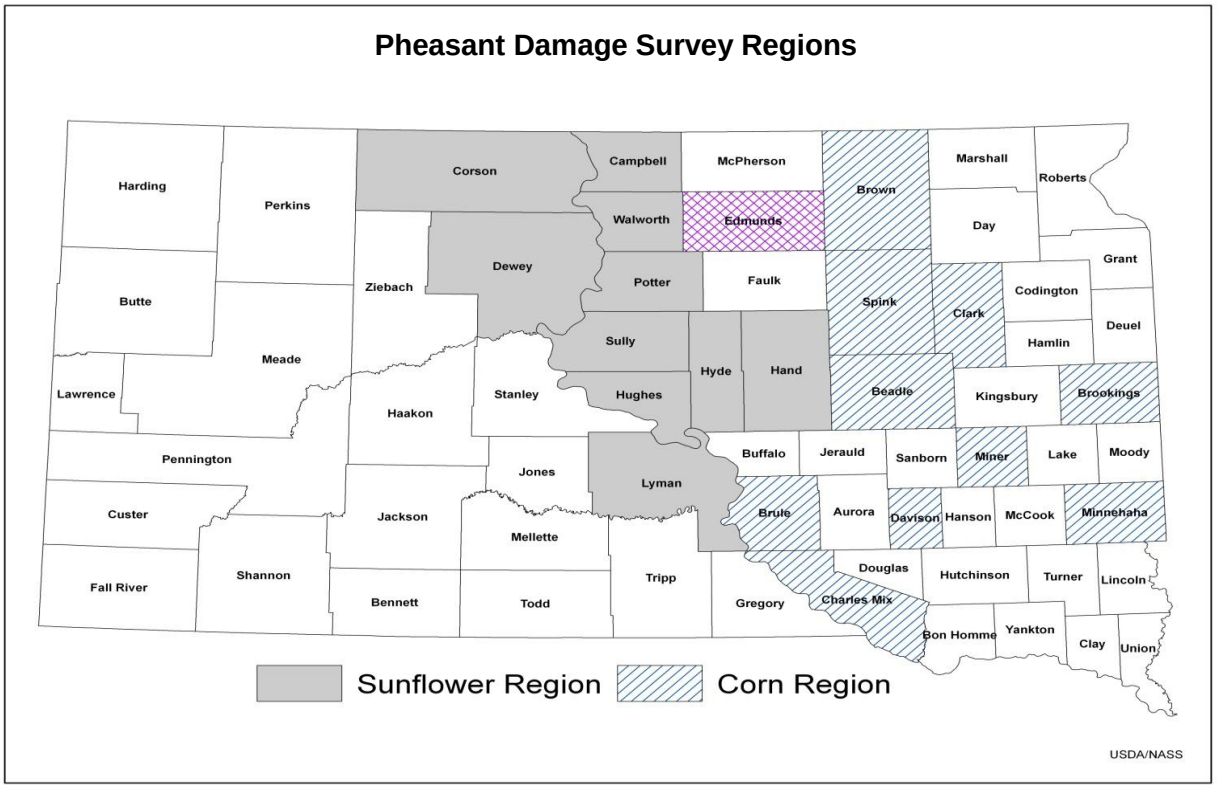
PHEASANT DAMAGE SURVEY
2009
Survey Results

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture along with USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) South Dakota field office, recently conducted a survey to measure the amount of pheasant damage to planted corn and sunflower fields in 2009. The survey was conducted in March and April of 2010. The data were collected from responses on two mailings of the survey. A random sample of 922 corn and 619 sunflower growers was surveyed in selected counties. There were 11 counties used as the sampling population for both the corn and sunflower regions. The summarized data will refer to counts and percentages representing totals from each region. Edmunds County was in both regions.



Survey respondents were asked about corn or sunflower planted in 2009, the number of acres damaged, total production loss, acres replanted, yield loss on replanted acres, and the average cost to replant. Responses were received from 462 corn growers or 50% of the sample.

Sunflower responses totaled 282, or 46% of the sunflower growers sampled. Of the corn growers who responded, 93% reported planting corn in 2009, totaling 202,657 acres. Of the sunflower responses, 76% planted sunflower in 2009, totaling 153,486 acres.

Table 1 Count of Responses and Acres Planted

	Corn	Sunflower
Number of responses to survey	462	282
Percent response	50%	46%
Number of growers planting crop	430	215
Percent of growers planting crop	93%	76%
Total acres planted by respondents	202,657	153,486

Of the growers who reported planting corn or sunflower, 57% of the operators reported damage by pheasants to some of their corn acres, while 77% of the operators reported some damage to sunflower acres. Damage was reported on 8.5% of the actual corn acres planted by survey respondents. Sunflower damage was reported on 10.7% of the acres planted by respondents. Growers were asked to report the level of loss that occurred on their total production of the crop. The percent of loss on total corn or sunflower production is listed in table 2.

Table 2 Growers Reporting and Level of Production Loss

	Corn	Sunflower
Less than 10 percent production loss	68.3%	54.3%
10 – 19 percent production loss	22.8%	29.9%
20 – 29 percent production loss	6.1%	11.0%
30 – 39 percent production loss	1.6%	1.8%
40 – 50 percent production loss	0.8%	1.8%
More than 50 percent production loss	0.4%	1.2%

Of the producers who reported damaged acres, 31% of the corn growers replanted 17% of the damaged corn acres. For sunflower, 29% of the growers with damaged acres replanted 16% of those acres. Table 3 below, shows the level of yield loss reported on replanted acres. Forty four percent of corn growers who replanted acres, reported having a yield loss of between 15-29% on those replanted acres. This was also the most frequently reported level of loss for sunflower growers, as 36% of those replanting sunflower acres reported yield loss of 15-29% on the replanted acres.

Table 3 Growers Reporting and Level of Loss on Replanted Acres

	Corn	Sunflower
Less than 15 percent yield loss	26.4%	23.4%
15 – 29 percent yield loss	44.4%	36.2%
30 – 44 percent yield loss	13.9%	14.9%
45 – 60 percent yield loss	9.7%	8.5%
More than 60 percent yield loss	5.6%	17.0%

Of the corn growers who replanted pheasant damaged acres, 91% reported cost information and spent an average of $90/ac to replant corn acres. For sunflower, 96% of the growers replanting sunflower acres reported cost information, spending an average $40/ac replanting. These costs are lower than average total seeding costs for several reasons. First, growers may have used several different practices when replanting, such as seeding only. They may not have used fertilizer because it was put down the first time. Finally, planting rate would be another big factor that could affect costs.

Funding for this survey was provided by the South Dakota Dept of Agriculture. This report can be accessed at both the SD Dept of Agriculture web site: www.sdda.sd.gov/
and at the SD NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov/sd/